

**METHOD FOR PREPARING CHEESE PRODUCTS
AND PROCESS CHEESE BASES**

Abstract of the Invention

5 The present invention provides a method for preparing cheese
products, and process cheese bases for use in the production of process
cheese. The method generally comprises mixing one or more concentrated
powders derived from milk with sodium chloride, milk fat, water, and,
optionally, an edible acid and/or a preservative for a period of time sufficient
10 to produce a well-mixed, homogeneous product, and cooling the resulting
mixture for a time and at a temperature which is sufficient to allow the mixture
to form a solid matrix. The solid matrix can be consumed, or can be used as
a substitute for natural cheese and ground by a cheese grinding system
during the production of process cheese. The present invention also provides
15 cheese products and process cheese bases prepared according to this
method, and to process cheeses produced with the process cheese bases.

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